



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**HEALTH**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# GJ CROOKES HOSPITAL

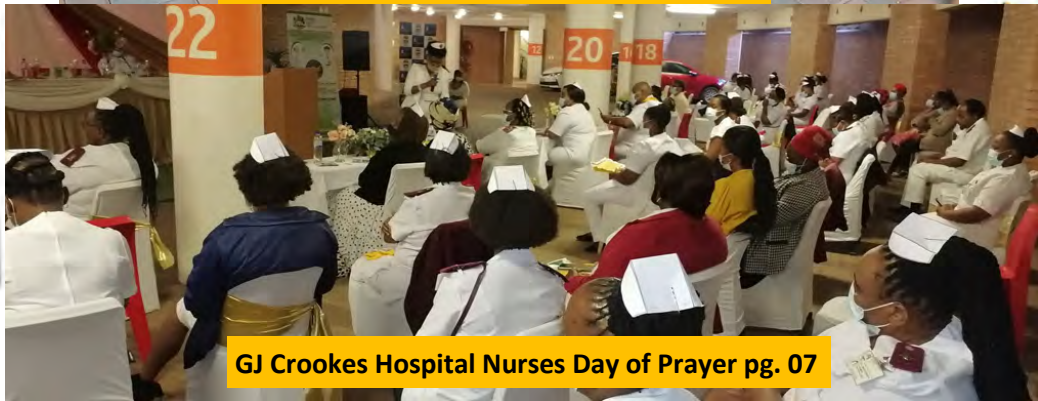
# NEWS

*Enabling your wellbeing*

Jan - June 2022



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# Acting CEO's Message



Acting CEO : Mrs. ZM Sobantu

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere warm welcome to the readers of our newsletter and thank the staff of GJ Crookes Hospital and feeder clinics for their dedication and commitment in providing health care to patients in the midst of challenges caused by current economic climate in our country. The support from our Hospital Board, partners, and service providers for their continued efforts in making provision of quality health services to our clients and patients possible will never go unnoticed.

In 2022/23 all our strategies and efforts will continue to be aimed at reducing morbidity and mortality rates across all priority programmes and improving client Experience of Care.

High uptake of COVID 19 vaccine in Scottburgh and surrounding areas was made possible by working in partnership with Park Rynie Halfway Toyota. The Management of Halfway Toyota provided a vaccination site

in their premises from November 2021 to 31 March 2022. This gesture further strengthened the sound relations between the GJ Crookes Hospital and private sector in managing health catastrophes in our communities.

The devastating floods in April resulted in disruption of water supply in certain parts of North and South Coasts of KZN including GJ Crookes Hospital. In addition to Ugu Water that was overstretched due to high demand, the business and faith based organization namely Scottburgh Mosque and ABSA provided water for patients and staff until the water supply was restored.

Integration of COVID 19 management with other health services has been implemented as per National and Provincial directive and vaccination is now offered in all PHC streams including outreach services. There has been no dramatic improvement in the uptake of vaccination boosters compared to 1st and 2nd doses due to reluctance of clients in getting these boosters. Our teams continue to embark on various strategies to ensure that relevant groups of people are targeted for example by having interactive discussions with focused groups, and providing all services during official community events. It is also encouraging to notice a decline in COVID 19 admissions from the daily average bed utilization rate of >60% in January to between <2% and 0% in May and June respectively and we continue to monitor trends and adhering to updated guidelines.

Once more on behalf of GJ Crookes Hospital Management, I want to thank our staff both in PHC and Hospital settings for their hard work, "Courage is an inner resolution to go forward despite obstacles" Martin Luther King Jr.

Mrs Z.M Sobantu

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# Appreciation to Toyota Halfway Over Partnership With GJ Crookes Hospital.



**GJ Crookes Hospital Management with Toyota Group Director and Management**

In November 2021 Halfway Toyota partnered with GJ Crookes Hospital in provision of a site for vaccinations. This made things easy for the community of Umdoni and surrounding areas as it came as another fixed station for a limited time to provide vaccinations. The community of Scottburgh, Parkrynie, Renishaw, Pennington and other surrounding areas were excited to have another accessible point other than the few clinics, which vaccination was only confined in at the time. Vaccination at this station went on for a full five months which was of great assistance to Umdoni Health Sub-district. The last day of vaccinations at Toyota Halfway was on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2022.

GJ Crookes Hospital Management visited Toyota Halfway group with tokens of appreciation and extended words of appreciation to Mr. Baker the Group Managing Director and his entire team for the kind gesture and caring for the community. Mr Baker also thanked the department for the good relationship they had within this period and was grateful for having had a hand in being of service to the community.



**Appreciation with PHC Manager and Toyota Group**



# TB Awareness Day



Health Education Songs by HAST

On the 24th May 2022 the HAST Unit of GJ Crookes Hospital held a TB Awareness Day Event at the Outpatients Department. This event is held to raise awareness to communities that TB is one of the main killer diseases in South Africa as per statistics. It is also done to remember the people who passed away from this disease. During this event, people were informed that TB is preventable and curable. In addition health education about signs and symptoms, utilization of their local facilities and the importance of screening and testing was given. Adherence to treatment in preventing complications such as MDR, was emphasized during health education.

The program consisted of health education songs, and slogans to end TB. Following health education and presentations a question and answer session was done, where clients who provided correct answers would be rewarded with appreciation tokens.



Activities and Talks on TB Awareness Day

# Vaccination Focus Groups Sessions



Umdoni Health Sub District and Ugu Health District led by National Department of Health hosted a community dialogue with the Community of Umdoni for rapid assessment on vaccine hesitancy using Focus Group Approach. This group consisted of various community structures which included Health Care Workers, Community Health Workers, Community Care Givers, Youth, Religious and Traditional Leadership, Men Associations etc. Engagements were done from 28 – 31 March 2022 in all Sub-District Municipalities. In Umdoni Sub-District it was held on the 31st of March 2022. Many issues came out during the discussion which highlighted to the department of health representatives on why people are hesitant in taking the vaccine. The issue of the booster was outstanding as there were many concerns regarding it citing less information shared by the department about the booster vaccination. People who are taking chronic medication are also reluctant because of different reasons as they also access un-verified information from social media. The coordinators from the department of health shed light and understanding to all concerns raised and the importance to have the majority of the community vaccinated to prevent people from getting ill and dying from Covid-19



# Provincial Nurses Day of Prayer



**Sr. Gumede addressing KZN Nurses**

On the 12th of May 2022 Mrs Thathakahle Gumede who is an Operational Manager for Philani Clinic was a guest at the Provincial Nurses Day of Prayer invited by the MEC for health Ms. Nomagugu Simelane. This comes after a series of activities that have put Mrs Gumede on the limelight with Philani Clinic staff where she is a Manager. She is widely known for the harmonious approach she has towards her clients which includes singing health songs, dancing and provision of a light meal for the clients that visit Philani Clinic. In her address the MEC for Health, acknowledged the presence of Mrs. Gumede and how happy she was to have her as a guest considering her approach to nursing. Mrs. Gumede was then given a platform to address nurses on the basics of nursing and how she makes it look easy to conduct her nursing duties. She further advised nurses especially the young ones to never let go of humility, being humble when serving the community and to always have respect everyone, irrespective of their background and social standing. She urged nurses to hold pride to their career and doing right even in the midst of difficult times of high vacancy turnover in government due to the economic climate in South Africa. Mrs. Gumede further appealed with nurses to do their best even when no one is watching.



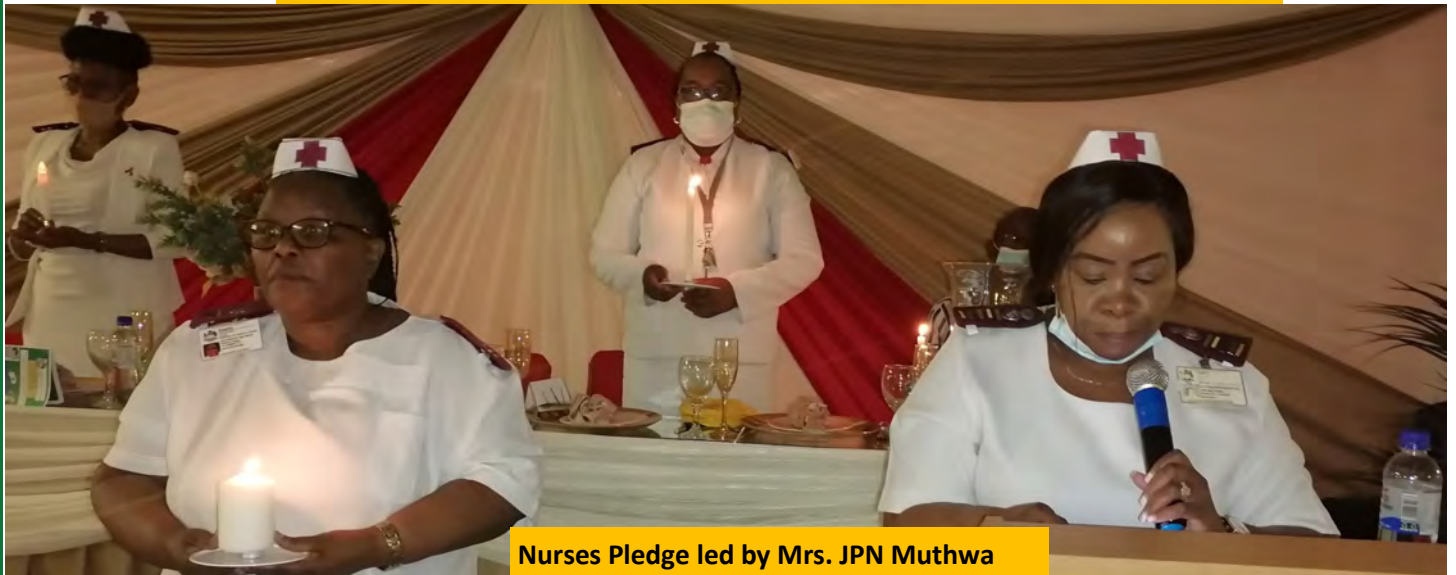
**Health HOD, Mrs Gumede and GJC PRO**



**Nurses Marching to Eskhaleni Hall**



# GJ Crookes Hospital Nurses Day



Nurses Pledge led by Mrs. JPN Muthwa

On the 18th of May 2022 GJ Crookes Hospital Nursing Management conducted an Annual Nurses Day of Prayer. The theme of this year was, Nurses: *“A Voice to lead, invest in nursing and respect rights to secure global health”*. The program director for the day was Mrs. T.R Gumede and the event was graced by the presence of Mrs NC Majola who was a guest of honour and a retired Principal for Edendale Nursing College.

Mrs Majola’s Message for the nurses was that National Nurses Week honours the Nurse’s contributions in the Multi-Disciplinary Team setting, and sacrifices of all in the healthcare environment. Nurses don’t function in a vacuum, hence this day reminds us to appreciate the collaborative efforts with other healthcare professionals, who keep us healthy in the Community and Institutional settings. All the Health Care Professionals/Health Workforce/The Front liners are honoured, who are on the cold-face of the fight against pandemics!

Nurses make a difference as trusted advocates who ensure individuals, families, and populations receive quality patient care and services in the Multi- Disciplinary Team Context.

Mrs Majola Closed off by saying “From birth to death, non-communicable diseases to infectious diseases; all health catastrophes; (man-made and natural) mental health to chronic conditions; in hospitals; communities and homes; nurses provide accessible; affordable; person-cantered and holistic care for all”.

Mrs Muthwa ANM for Maternity led all nursing staff with the nurses pledge and Ms. Mkhize the DNM awarded multiple certificates and medals to nursing staff on different categories in recognition of work well done. A special recognition was made to the team of organisers led by Sir Ndlovu who were appreciated for delivering a successful Nurses Day. Mrs Sobantu the Acting CEO gave a vote of thanks to all the attendees, sponsors, and organisers of the event.



Nurses Day of Prayer in Session



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# Phuthuma Week Vaccination Drive



Students queuing for services



Ms. Ncayiya addressing students

On the 22nd and 23rd of May 2022 Ugu Health District and GJ Crookes Hospital with Ms. Nompilo Ncayiya for Asalaam and Ubuhle Bogu T-VET Colleges embarked on the mass Covid-19 vaccination drive and health screening services as part of the Phuthuma week initiative which was a national call by Minister of Health Dr. Joe Phaahla. For these colleges, there were 362 students who came for screening services and 250 were vaccinated. Phuthuma week is a multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral approach in improving health outcomes terms of the following indicators: - Increasing uptake of COVID-19 , influenza and other vaccines, bring clients back to care HIV and NCDs, call back treatment interrupters, tracking and tracing of clients defaulted on CCMDD program, integrated screening for both communicable and non-communicable diseases and health promotion etc. The main focus areas for the colleges were health promotion, health screening, Covid-19 Testing and Covid-19 Vaccinations. Mrs. Mathenjwa thanked Ms. Ncayiya, the campus managers and students for participating in the awareness.



Excitement on students lining up for services





## Staff Appreciation after Floods Disaster



GJC Staff at the Certificate Awarding Ceremony

The floods that affected KZN in April 2022 resulted in disruption of water supply for the North and South Coasts. The flood related water disruption was a major challenge for the hospital. The staff and stakeholders made great efforts to decrease the risks and prevent disasters within the facility as a result of no water.

All the staff at GJ Crookes hospital shared great team work during this difficult time. Most especially the maintenance team, the general orderlies, private cleaning company Ongoti and staff who donated food for clients and water. The stakeholders such as Ugu water, ABSA, Aqua and Scottburgh Mosque, provided great support in providing the hospital with water. Words cannot express our gratitude. *"None of us including me, ever do great things, but we can do something wonderful"* Mother Teresa. In coming together something wonderful occurred indeed.

An appreciation ceremony was conducted to extend how grateful management was for the effort that the staff members and stakeholders took in sustaining functions in the hospital.



Dr Kgabo presenting appreciation certificates to staff



# Matron Sisoka's Farewell



Mrs Sisoka making her remarks

On the 31st of March 2022, GJ Crookes Nursing Management bid farewell to Mrs. NL Sisoka ANM for OPD, Casualty, Theatre and CSSD who had served GJ Crookes Hospital for 8 years since her appointment in 2015 as an ANM. Mam Sisoka was described as a prayer warrior, determined leader and hard worker. Her best short hand and record keeping skills as she was even termed *"a Mobile Office"* will be dearly missed. Managers from all components and levels of nursing management had their individual messages to say to Mrs Sisoka on her last day as a public servant and a manager in the nursing fraternity. She was presented with gifts and all the good messages that came from her colleagues and hospital management. Mrs. Sisoka thanked Management and the Nursing Component and all the staff of GJ Crookes Hospital for having given her a warm welcome into the facility in the last 8 years of her career and that she will always remember the cooperation and team work of staff in providing good quality health services. She thanked the Nursing Component for the wonderful send off and gifts presented to her.



Staff in presence of Mrs Sisoka's Farewell

Mrs Muthwa presenting Gifts to Mam Sisoka



## Child Protection Week Radio Slot



Sr Gqojana and Radio Sunny South DJ deliberating about Child Protection Week

On the 7th of June 2022 GJ Crookes Hospital PRO and PHC Clinical Nurse Practitioner for School Health Program, Prof Nurse Z Gqojana visited Radio Sunny South for a radio slot on Child Protection Week. On the interview with Radio Sunny South Prof Nurse Gqojana stated that this years theme for Child Protection Week says “*Let us all protect children during Covid 19 and Beyond*”. In addition, the purpose to have Child Protection Week is to highlight the importance of protecting children from gender based violence, neglect, lack of primary healthcare and education and the violation of their constitutional right. She further cited the importance of protecting children in our society and that it is every adult’s responsibility to protect children. Mr. Mbanjwa closed off the session by saying that June being the men’s month, on behalf of men and fathers out there, he requests that men become responsible people and protectors of society and not to look away when there is an abuse of children but act and protect them.



Radio Interview in session

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## EDITORIAL TEAM / DETAILS

We thank you for taking your time to read through our facility newsletter. Should you have any interesting health stories, please share them with the Hospital PRO Mr. Thabiso Mbanjwa on [maxwell.mbanjwa@kznhealth.gov.za](mailto:maxwell.mbanjwa@kznhealth.gov.za). Your inputs will be much appreciated.

Should you have any complaints or compliments regarding the work and manner of approach by our staff members you can also send in writing to [maxwell.mbanjwa@kznhealth.gov.za](mailto:maxwell.mbanjwa@kznhealth.gov.za) or call 0399787215.

Please remember to stay safe from Covid-19 by keeping your hands clean, wash with soap and water, sanitize regularly, wear your mask indoors and avoid crowded areas. We encourage our community to get vaccinated against Covid-19. GJ Crookes Hospital is here to support you and assist in any way we can.



**Thabiso M. Mbanjwa (PRO)**  
WRITER, DESIGNER & EDITOR



**Mrs. ZM Sobantu (Acting CEO)**  
CHIEF EDITOR



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